Indispensable implication
Of Sunna
and
caution against innovation

By

His Eminence Sheikh:
ABDUL AZIZ BIN ABDULLAH BIN BAZ

Translated by:
Muhammad Raquibuddin Hussain,

and

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Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Wakf (Endowment - Gratif)
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In the name of Allah the most Gracious the most Merciful

Indispensable implication of Sunna and caution against innovation

All praise be to Allah who completed the religion for us, perfected the blessing on us and chose Islam as our religion. May the blessings and peace be upon His servant and Apostle, who called upon people to obey his Lord and cautioned against extravagance, innovation and disobedience; And may Allah bless his posterity, his companions and those who follow his footsteps till the Day of Judgement.

I have been acquainted with the article published in the first page of the weekly magazine «Edarat» of the Kanpur, Industrial city of Utter Pradesh in India, which contains an implied campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its adherence to the Islamic creed, and its opposition to innovations. The writer alleges that the creed of the Salaf (Early adherents to Islam) which is held by Saudi Kingdom does not agree with the Sunna. By this, the writer aims at creating division amongst the Ahl'l Sunna and encouraging the innovations and superstitions. This attitude, no doubt, is most abominable and dangerous and aims at offending the Religion of Islam and spreading innovations and deviations from the truth. Furthermore, the article concentrates clearly on the subject of celebrating the Prophet's birthday as an excuse to discuss the creed of the Kingdom and its rulers. Therfore, I consider it necessary to enlighten the People on this subject. So seeking help of Allah, I say:

It is not permissible to celebrate the birthday of the Apostle, (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) or somebody else. In fact, it must be stopped, as it is an innovation in

the religion. The Apostle of Allah (May the blessings and Peace of Allah be upon him) neither celebrated it, nor commanded others to do this for himself. or for any one who died before him amongst the Prophets, for his daughters his wives, or his other relatives. The rightly guided Caliphs the Companions of the Prophet (May Allah be pleased wih them) or the successors who rightly followed them did not celebrate this event, nor did any one of the muslim scholars in the centuries before.

They knew the Sunnah of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) best, they loved him more, and followed the Shari'a better than those who came after them. if celebrating his birthday was a good deed, they would have done it.

We are commanded to follow and forbidden to innovate. This is because of the perfection of the Islamic religion and the Sufficiency of what Allah and His Messenger have given us and are accepted by Ahl-al-Sunna wal-jama'at-. The Muslim community of the companions and those who followed them in the best way.

It is related to the prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) that he said: «He who innovates something in this matter of ours that is not of it, will have it rejected». (Transmitted by Al-Bukhari and Muslim). According to Muslim who reported: «whoever does an act which is not in agreement with our matter, will have it rejected» In another tradition the Prophet said: «You must keep to my Sunna and of the Sunna of the rightly-guided Caliphs, cling to it firmly». «Beware of newly invented matters, for every new matter is an innovation and every innovation is misleading» He used to say in every Friday sermon: «The best discourse is the Book of Allah and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad the

Apostle of Allah, and the worst matter is that of innovation and every innovation is misleading». Thus, these traditions contain a strong caution against innovations and a warning that such an act is a deviation from the right course. The Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) warned the people of the gravity of these innovations and of their bad consequences. There are many traditions adduced in this connection. And the Almighty has said:

﴿وما ءاتكم الرسول فخذوه وما نهكم عنه فانتهوا﴾ [٥٩-٧].

«So take what the Messenger gives you, and refrain from what he prohibits you» (59:7). Allah, Most High said:

﴿فليحذر الذين يخالفون عن أمره أن تصيبهم فتنةٌ أو يصيبهم عذابٌ أليم﴾ [٢٤:٦٣].

«Then let those beware who withstand the Messenger's order, Lest some trial befall them. or a grievous Chastisement be inflicted on them» (24:63).

Allah, the Almighty said.

﴿لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة لمن كان يرجو الله واليوم الآخر وذكر الله كثيراً﴾ [٣٣:٢١].

«Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah an excellent exempler for him who hopes in Allah and the final day, and who remember Allah much.» (33:21) And Allah the Almighty said.

﴿والسبقون الأولون من المهجرين والأنصار والذين

اتبعوهم بإحسـٰن رضي الله عنهم ورضوا عنه وأعد لهم جنـٰت تجري تحتها الأنهٰر خـٰلدين فيهآ أبداً ذٰلك الفوز العظيم﴾ [٩-١٠٠]

«The vangured of Islam the first of those who forsook their homes and of those who gave them aid, and also those who followed them in all good deeds, well - Pleased is Allah with them as are they with Him. For them hath He prepared gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therin forever, that is the supreme Triumph» (9:100). And Allah, the Almighty said:

﴿اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم وأتممت عليكم نعمتي ورضيت لكم الإسلام ديناً﴾ [٥:٣].

«This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion» (5:3). This verse decisively indicates that the Almighty Allah has completed the religion for this Ummah, and has showered His blessings on them.

His Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away only after he had imparted the complete message of Allah to the Ummah as well as his legislations concerning sayings and deeds. He also stressed that all things invented by people and then attributed to the religion of Islam are innovations and to be rejected, even if their inventors did so in good faith.

It is established that the Companions of the Prophet (May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and the righteous successors after them warned the people against innovations as they add to Islam and legislate what is not permitted by Allah, in line with the enemies of Allah such as the Jews and the Christians who added to their religion and innovated what was

not allowed by Allah. Moreover, to admit innovation in Islam is incomplete and imperfect. Such a belief is not only an evil but contradicts the following verse: «This day have I perfected your religion for you». And the sayings of the Prophet which warn us against innovations.

To celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Prophet and the others, means that the Religion is not perfected by Allah (the Galorious, the Almighty) for this «Ummah», and the Apostle did not impart to the people what was necessary regarding their religious duties, till these late ones appeared and invented in the religion what is not permitted by Allah, thinking that this would bring them nearer to Allah.

Undoubtedly, this is a great danger and is tantamount to criticzing Allah the Almighty and the Prophet (Peace be upon him): whereas Allah the Almighty has already completed the religion and perfected His grace, and the Prophet (peace be upon him) has conveyed the message openly and informed the Ummah of all such ways that will lead them to the Paradise and save them from Hell-fire.

According to an authentic Hadith, on the authority of Abdullah ben Amr ben Al-As the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said: Allah Ta'ala «the Almighty» did not send a Prophet but obliged him to lead his people to the best way which is known to him, and warn them against the worst which is known to him. (Transmitted by Muslim).

It is well-known that our Prophet (peace be upon him) is the best of all the prophets, the last and the most perfect of them regarding the way he conveyed the message and advised his people.

Had the celebration of Milad been an act of Religion chosen by Allah for His servants, the Prophet would have either explained that to his people, would have celebrated it during his

life, or his Companions would have done it. As these did not happen, it becomes clear that Islam has no concern with Milad. On the contrary, it is one of the innovations against which the Prophet has warned his people as mentioned earlier.

A host of scholars have not only rejected the celebration of Milad but have warned against it in view of the evidences given above.

According to the rule of the Islamic Shari'a all matters regarding legalization or prohibition and all disputes among the people, should be referred to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (Peace be upon him) in line with the saying of Allah:

﴿يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوٓاْ أَطِيعُواْ ٱللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُواْ ٱلرَّسُولَ وَأُوْلِي ٱلْأَمْرِ مِنكُمْ فَإِن تَنَٰزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ وَٱلرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِٱللَّهِ وَٱلْيَوْمِ ٱلْأٓخِرِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾ [٤:٥٩].

A. «O ye who believe obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those charged with authority among you. If ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and his Messenger, if ye do believe in Allah and the Last Day: That is best and most suitable for final determination» (4:59).

And Allah The Almighty said:

﴿وَمَا ٱخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِن شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُۥٓ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ﴾ [٤٢-١٠].

B. «Whatever it be wherein ye differ, the decision thereof is with Allah» (42:10).

Referring this issue back to the Book of Allah, we find it ordaining upon us to follow the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) in his Commandments and warns us against what ever he prohibits. Furthermore it tells us that Allah has perfected

the religion for the people. So, as long as Milad is not among the teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him), it cannot be a part of the religion which Allah has perfected for us and asked us to adhere to by following the Prophet.

Again when we refer this issue back to the Sunnah, of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), we do not find either the Prophet or the Companions doing it by themselves or asking others to do it, So it becomes evident that Milad, is not a part of religion, rather one of innovations and blind immitation of the people of the book, i. e. the Jews and the Christians in their festivals. With this argument in mind, it becomes crystal-clear for everyone having the least insight and inclination towards truth and justice, that celebrating any birthday has nothing to do with Islam. It is rather among the innovations which Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him) warned against emphatically.

A wise man must not be deceived by seeing a large number of people doing it throughout the world because the truth is known and recognized by the evidences of Shari'a and not by the acts of a great number of people.

Allah Ta'ala «the Almighty» says regarding the Jews and the Christians:

﴿وَقَالُوا۟ لَن يَدْخُلَ ٱلْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَن كَانَ هُودًا أَوْ نَصَـٰرَىٰ
تِلْكَ أَمَانِيُّهُمْ قُلْ هَاتُوا۟ بُرْهَـٰنَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَـٰدِقِينَ﴾ [٢:١١١].

«And they say: None shall enter Paradise unless he be a Jew, or a Christian, those are their vain desires. Say: Produce your proof if ye are truthful» (2:111).

And the Almighty also said:

﴿وَإِن تُطِعْ أَكْثَرَ مَن فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَن سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ

إن يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا ٱلظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ﴾ [٦:١١٦].

«wert thou to follow the common run of those on earth, they will lead thee away from the way of Allah. They follow nothing but conjecture: They do nothing but lie» (6:116).

Most of these innovations, in addition to their innovatory nature, also do not usually escape from a number of other evils, such as mixed gatherings of men and women, songs accompanied by musical instruments. drinking intoxicants, narcotics and the like. They may also involve the worst thing i. e. the greatest Shirk, through showing exaggeration in the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and other saints and through praying to him, invoking his help or believing that he knows what is hidden and all similar claims which render a believer as an infidel. It is authentically reported that the Messenger of Allah has said: «Beware of extravagance in the Religion: It has caused the people before you to perish». He also said: «Do not lavish praise on me as the Christians did with the son of Maryam. I am just a bondman. So Simply say: The bondman of Allah and His Messenger» (Transmitted by Bukhari).

It is curious to note that a great many people partcipate most actively in these celebrations and defend them vehemently, while they sit back from attending the obligatory forms of worship such as daily and friday prayers. They are not even ashamed of this, nor do they realize that they are committing a great evil.

Undoubtedly, this shows the weakness of their faith, their short-sightedness, and the deeply ingrained rust on their hearts because of sins and disobedience. We ask Allah's protection for us and for all the Muslims.

It is even more astonishing to note that some people believe that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) is present at Milad. Consequently they stand to greet and Welcome him. That

is not only a sheer lie but a worst form of ignorance, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) shall niether come out of his grave before the Day of Resurrection, nor shall he meet the people or attend their meetings. Instead, he shall remain in his grave till the Day of Resurrection while his soul rests at the highest of the high with his Lord in the most exalted and highest place.

Allah Ta'ala «The Almighty» Says:

﴿ثُمَّ إِنَّكُم بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ لَمَيِّتُونَ * ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ ٱلْقِيَٰمَةِ تُبْعَثُونَ﴾ [٢٣:١٥-١٦].

«After that at length ye will die, again on the Day of Judgment, will ye be raised up» (23: 15, 16).

And the prophet (peace be upon him) said:

«I am the first one to rise from the grave on the Resurrection Day and I will be the first intercessor and the first one whose intercession is to be accepted».

The aforesaid evidences from the Quran and Hadith prove beyond doubt that the dead people will come out of their graves only on the Day of Resurrection. All the scholars of Islam agree upon this. A Muslim should be aware of these things and must not be easily misled by the innovations and the superstitions created by the ignorant people with no authority from Allah at all.

As for offering the blessings and greetings (Salat and Salam) to the prophet (peace be upon him), they are among the most prefered and virtuous deeds in accordance with the saying of Allah:

﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ وَمَلَٰٓئِكَتَهُۥ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى ٱلنَّبِيِّ يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ صَلُّوا۟ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا۟ تَسْلِيمًا﴾ [٣٣:٥٦].

«Allah and His Angels send blessings on the Prophet, O ye that believe, send ye blessings on him, and salute him with all respect» (33:56).

The Prophet (peace be upon him) has said:

«Whosoever sends blessings on me one time, Allah sends blessings on him ten times».

It is prescribed on all times, particulary at the end of each prayer. It is held obligatory at last «Tashahud» of each prayer by most of the scholars. It is strongly required at a number of occasions such as immediately after «Adhan», at the mention of the name of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), during the day of Friday and the night preceding it according to a host of Ahadith.

This is what I wanted to emphasize regarding this issue. I hope it will satisfy everyone whom Allah has shown the light.

How sad it is to see some devoted Muslims, known for their strenght of faith and love for the Prophet (peace be upon him). organizing such innovatory celebrations.

Let us ask such people: Tell us, if you belong to Ahl - as - Sunna and follow the Prophet (peace be upon him), whether he himself or one of his Companions or their Successors did this or is it no more than a blind following of the enemies of Islam from among the jews and the Christians and the like?».

The love of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is not reflected by the celebration on his birthday, but by obeying him, believing in his teachings, keeping away from what he prohibited and by worshipping Allah in the way he prescribed for us.

It is also reflected through offering Salat and Salam to him from time to time, particularly at the mention of his name and during prayers.

The Wahhabiyya, as the writer tends to put it, are not new

in rejecting all such innovations. Their creed is to hold fast to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (Peace be upon him): to follow his footsteps and those of his rightly guided successors: to believe and practise what was propounded by the virtuous predecessors and the Imams of learning and guidance who were capable to issue religious injunction concerning the knowledge of Allah, and His attributes of perfection and dignity as shown in the Glorious Book and the authentic traditions of the Prophet and as wholeheartedly accepted by his companions. The Wahhabiyya believe in them, the way they are reported without any alteration, personification, examplifying or negation of such attributes. They stick to the way of successors and their followers from among the people of learning, faith and piety. They believe that the foundation of the faith is to bear witness that there is none to be worshipped except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. To them, this is the root of faith and one of its most exalted branches as well.

They know in accordance with the consensus of the muslims, that this root requires knowledge, acknowledgement and practice.

It implies that none is to be worshipped except Allah the Almighty. Who has no associates at all. It further implies the negation of worshipping any other except Him. It shows why jinn and mankind were created; why the Messengers were sent and why the Books were revealed.

In addition, Ibada (worship) is not only complete submission and love but also complete obedience and veneration as well. Islam is the only religion prescribed by Allah and disseminated by the prophets and nothing, save it, is acceptable to Allah whether in the past or the present. The one who submits his will to Allah as well as to someone else beside Him is a Mushrik

«polytheist». The same is true for the one who prays to Allah and someone else beside Him. As for the one who does not submit to Him, he is arrogant concerning his duties towards his Creator.

Allah the Almighty Says:

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولاً أَنِ ٱعْبُدُواْ ٱللَّهَ وَٱجْتَنِبُواْ ٱلطَّـٰغُوتَ﴾ [١٦:٣٦].

«For we assuredly sent amongst every people a Messenger, (with the Command) «Serve Allah and eschew Evil» (16:36).

Thus the creed of the wahhabiyya is based upon fulfillment of witnessing that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and completely abandoning all innovations, superstitions and whatever goes against the Shari'a.

This is what Shaikh Muhammad ben Abdul Wahhab - may Allah have mercy upon him - believed and invited others to believe. Whoever accredits to him anything contrary to it, does not only lie but commits a great sin and claims what is totally unfounded. He will, no doubt, receive what Allah has promised to all the fabricators of lies.

The Shaikh has shown - through a series of his well - known treatises and scholarly books on the topic of the «Declaration of Unity: La ilaha ill' Allah. - that no one deserves worship except Allah the Almighty and that this type of worship should be devoid of all sorts of SHIRK whether big or small. Anyone who is aware of these writings, his way of preaching and calling people to Allah and of the way of his pupils and disciples, can easily find out that his approach was not different from that of our virtuous predecessors, the great Imams of learning and guidance. Indeed, he has propounded what they did throughout their lives concerning the worship of Allah Alone and leaving all

innovations and superstitions aside.

This is the foundation of the Saudi regime and this view is held by the scholars of Saudi Arabia. The hard attitude shown by the Saudi government is directed only against the superstitions and innovations in contradication with Islam, or the extreme type of extravagance which is totally prohibited by the Prophet (Peace be upon him). All Muslims, Scholars and rulers of Saudi Arabia hold great respect and love for every Muslim regardless of his affiliation to any group or country in the world. They do reject all types of celebration or gatherings which are based on innovation, with no authority from Allah or His Prophet. They oppose them because every new matter in the religion is an innovation and because the Muslims are commanded to follow, not to innovate. Islam is perfect and complete by itself.

It is in no need of any addition after what Allah and His Prophet have ordained and what the Ahl-al-Sunnah Wal' Jama'at, from among the Companions, the Successors and their followers have already received. To forbid celebrating the birthday of the Prophet due to its innovative nature in addition to the sings of extravagance and Shirk normally associated with it, is not un-Islamic orderogatory to the Prophet (peace be upon him). Instead, it is an act of obedience as the Prophet (peace be upon him) himself said: «Be ware of the extravagance in matters of religion. Those before you have perished because of extravagance in the matters of religion».

Again he said: Do not lavish praise on me as the Christians did with the son of Maryam. I am but a bondman. So simply say: «Slave of Allah and His Messenger».

This is what I wanted to point out regarding the aforesaid article.

May Allah help us and all the Muslims to understand His

religion, to continually confirm us on it, stick to Sunnah and keep away from the innovation. Indeed He is Generous and Kind.

And May Allah Shower His blessings and mercy upon our prophet Muhammad, his posterity and his Companions.

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Translated from Arabic by: Muhammad Raquibuddin Hussain, and Suhaib Hasan Abdul Ghaffar.

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وجوب لزوم السنة والحذر من البدعة / لعبدالعزيز
ابن عبدالله بن باز - الرياض الرئاسة العامة لإدارات البحوث
العلمية والإفتاء والدعوة والإرشاد ١٤١٣ هـ
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وقف لله تعالى.
باللغة الانجليزية.
١- الوعظ والإرشاد أ- العنوان

وجوب لزوم السنة والحذر من البدعة

تأليف سماحة الشيخ

عبد العزيز بن عبد الله بن باز

باللغة الانجليزية

طبع ونشر

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وكالة الطباعة والترجمة

الرياض - المملكة العربية السعودية

وقف لله تعالى

١٤١٣هـ

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